

Mr. President,  
Secretary-General  
Excellencies,  
Distinguished colleagues,

I have the honour to speak on behalf of the Group D member states.

[We would like to congratulate you on your election as the President of the Trade and Development Board, and we are looking forward to working closely with you to have a successful Trade and Development Board session.

We thank the outgoing President of the TDB, H.E. Amb. Alfredo Suescum of Panama. We thank him, as well as the other outgoing Members of the Bureau for their work and dedication. Amb. Suescum has indeed superbly steered us through a special and intense period for all of us in the preparatory phase and successful conclusion of the 14<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Conference on UNCTAD.]  
[*delivered at the afternoon session.*]

The adoption of Maafikiano was 4 months ago. While departing in July, we actually have passed even more time, when calculating in terms of the regular ministerial conference cycle. If doing so, then about 1/8 of the mandate period has passed soon. That means, we need to move now. Now.

Maafikiano provides us a new mandate and all UNCTAD's activities should address and deliver to ensure that UNCTAD's core mandate remains in our focus and that the goals introduced in Nairobi Maafikiano will be achieved by 2020. The good collaborative mood we achieved at the Nairobi Conference should continue, as we can achieve our mutual goals only together.

On behalf of Group D, we would like to hear Secretary-General's vision for the organization in implementing Maafikiano in more detail.

There are several old and new challenges: mainstreaming gender in trade and development, addressing the youth unemployment, empowerment and entrepreneurship, as well as inclusion of youth into development agenda, supporting implementation of the SDGs and the needed enhanced inter-agency cooperation for that, operationalizing the two new IGEG-s on E-commerce and Financing for Development, enhancing eTrade for All, that was launched in Nairobi, addressing the development challenges, including the issues related to the global value chains and including developing states into global economy, supporting LDC's graduation, commodities and commodities dependence and diversification of economy. And so on.

There are, of course, many other important elements in our agenda. However, one must be clear – these should be addressed in full recognition of the importance of Results-Based Management. Greater efficiency and effectiveness should be in our daily focus. Lessons-learned process should support the RBM, as well as the preparations for the Mid-Term Review. Implementation

challenges, especially the decrease in financing of UNCTAD's technical cooperation, should also be in our focus, and we would like to hear your thoughts on how to address that challenge.

Honoured Secretary-General, colleagues,

Group D looks forward to the fruitful discussions throughout the week, and we will raise further questions and specific comments where necessary.

Thank you for your attention.